Dear Mr. President,

At the invitation of the National Assembly of Lebanon, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) are holding a regional seminar entitled "Capacity-building for parliaments on the sustainable management of water resources." The seminar will be held in:

Beirut, Lebanon
on 29 and 30 November 2005

The parliamentary needs assessment conducted in June 2005 by UNITAR and the IPU identified themes deemed by parliaments to be of topical importance that should be addressed by future capacity-building activities for parliamentarians in these fields.

This first regional event is designed to make participants aware of the important stakes involved in environmental management and sustainable development, and in particular of the role parliaments can play in the field of water management.

The seminar is open to participation by five persons from each chamber. We thus ask that you kindly designate five individuals, parliamentarians and/or parliamentary staff, if possible with experience in the field of sustainable development and/or water resources management.

Please fill in the enclosed confirmation form and return it by Friday, 4 November 2005 to:

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Costs related to participation in this event will be covered by each parliament.

We hope that your Parliament will be represented in Beirut and that the delegation will take an active part in the proceedings.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Nour Eddine Bouchkouj
Secretary General
Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union

Marcel Bussard
Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations
Executive Director UNITAR